

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-16 and 19-22 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 1-10 and 14-16 as being allowable. It is also gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 11-13 and 19-21 as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the indefiniteness rejections. Although not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, claims 11-13 and 19-22 have been amended to overcome the indefiniteness rejection. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-16 and 19-22 are now in condition for allowance.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings because Fig. 3 should illustrate the through hole in hidden lines. By way of the present Amendment, Applicant is submitting a corrected version of sheet 2 of the drawings, including Fig. 3,

which includes the through hole in hidden lines. Accordingly, this objection is believed to be overcome.

Acknowledgment of Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 3, 2002. An initialed copy of the PTO-1449 has been received from the Examiner. No further action is necessary at this time.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 11-13 and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In regard to claims 11-13, the Examiner points out that antecedent basis is lacking for the anchor since claim 1 only defines anchor means. By way of the present Amendment, Applicant has revised claims 11-13 to indicate that the anchor means includes a plurality of anchor brackets. The claims have been appropriately amended to now refer to the anchor brackets. Accordingly, this part of the rejection is believed to be overcome.

The Examiner pointed out in regard to claims 19-22 that language was missing at the bottom of a number of pages in the original application. Apparently part of the page was removed in copying the application for filing. Applicant is now submitting claims 19-22 as they appear in Applicant's copy of

the application and have added underlining to the language that the Examiner has indicated is missing. In regard to claim 22, it is assumed that two lines were cut off, however, it is possible that either a fewer number of lines or a greater number of lines may be involved. The Examiner is requested to review the underlining to ascertain that the correct lines have been underlined. The rejection of these claims is now also believed to be overcome.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by FR 2,678,662. Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by USP 1,991,550 to Duffy. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

By way of the present Amendment, these claims have been cancelled, rendering these rejections moot.

No Prosecution History Estoppel

Claims 1 and 19-22 are hereby presented in independent form. No prosecution history estoppel would apply to the interpretation of the limitations set forth in claims 1 and 19-22 and the claims that depend therefrom in view of the fact that this subject matter has been continuously presented since the original filing date of the original application.

Conclusion

In view of the above Remarks, it is believed that all the rejections of the Examiner have been overcome. In view of this, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

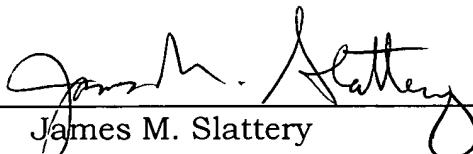
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert f. Gnuse (Reg. No. 27,295) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petitions for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application. The required fee of \$950.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By: 
James M. Slattery
Reg. No. 28,380

JMS/RFG/gf
(703) 205-8000
1817-0122P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-07047

Attachment: Drawings
Check: \$950.00